

PRESIDENT: Substitute, any objection? So ordered.

CLERK: Senator, I have your AM3226 in front of me, found on page 1863 of the Journal.

SENATOR WARNER: The thought occurred to me that I should have apolo...if somebody wants to object, I did not indicate what the amendment was, and I...it was an oversight on my part. What this amendment is, but maybe it will save time. What this amendment is, is the constitutional amendment that someone suggested before which will give the Coordinating Commission the constitutional authority to act as a coordinating body. And the one thing I hope that all of you will keep in mind on these two issues, these two bills, a constitutional amendment is unlike any other bill. In the case of a constitutional amendment, if there are 30 votes to suspend the rules on the last day, that can be amended, discussed, changed and still enacted. I repeat, a constitutional amendment is unlike other legislation. There are constitu...there are Attorney General's Opinion, we've done it in the past. You can, with a suspension of the rules, there is no constitutional prohibition, you can amend on the 60th day a constitutional amendment that is to be placed on the ballot. So what I am offering as a substitute in 1141, and from a strategy point of view it probably is somewhat of a not too bright a move, because it gives two options out there and that could be either/or, but I think you're entitled to know if some of the people who said they wanted a strong, effective Coordinating Commission, without a major change in the structure, meant what they told you. You're entitled to know, if they meant, what they told you. I read from the chairman, and I don't want to make this an argument with the Board of Regents, but I will read, you had one handed out to you by Senator Withem with a question to...by Senator Baack, and another point in that same testimony is, if the issue is coordination, then let's deal with the problem with the structure we have in place. If the current structure is ineffective, because of lack of power, it would seem that the solution is to strengthen it, not throw it out in favor of an untried system. Why aren't we discussing altering the current Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education to enable it to coordinate effectively rather than debating the merits of an entirely new system? I agree with Senator Barrett, the Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education is a Coordinating Commission in name only. But this Legislature has